

# 2008 FARM BILL PROGRAM DEADLINES

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

EQIP - has a continuous signup, October 1, 2007 is the deadline for funding.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Administered by Farm Service Agency, has a continuous signup.

## WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

WHIP - has a continuous signup, October 1, 2007 is the deadline for funding.

## WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

WRP - has a continuous signup underway, applicants are encouraged to apply by October 1, 2007 for funding.

## Awaiting Information on two programs

Farmland and Ranch Protection Program

Conservation Securities Program.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program



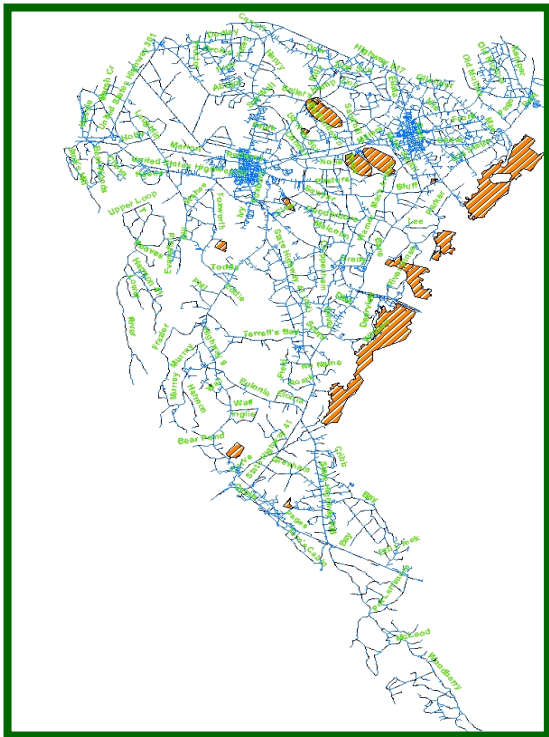
This is an EQIP site that belongs to Johnny Atkinson of Marion. He has installed (2000) feet of pipeline, (4) Livestock Watering Facilities, (1) mile of cross fencing and (1) well.

The Environmental Qualities Incentives Program each year has local concerns that are set by the local workgroup. For 2007 the work groups wanted to address the concerns that would help improve the natural resources in Marion County. Listed below are the concerns in order of importance; (1) Improving Water Quality from a reduction in Nutrients being removed from the farm. (2) Improving Water Quality from a reduction in Sediment leaving the farm, (3.)Improving Soil Quality with a reduction in Erosion from wind and water, (4) Providing Water Quantity for Livestock Needs, (5) Improving Grazing Land & Animal Health on the farm, (6.) Improving Water Quality by reducing Animal Waste in streams and water bodies, and (7.) Improving Wildlife Habitat on the farm. Each applicant is ranked based on the concern they are addressing on their farm. With so many concerns outlined by the workgroup in the county and so many applicants addressing different and multiple concerns we hope that we are improving our local natural resources.



<i>Conservation Programs:</i>	<i>Funds Applied for:</i>	<i>Funds Obligated to participants:</i>	<i>Funds received by participants:</i>
<i>Conservation Reserve Program</i>	<i>\$168,341</i>	<i>\$168,341</i>	<i>\$168,341.00</i>
<i>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</i>	<i>\$370,498.00</i>	<i>\$364,412.75</i>	<i>\$155,852.30</i>
<i>Farmland and Ranch Protection Program</i>	<i>\$1,416,280.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$191,250.00</i>
<i>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program</i>	<i>\$21,791.00</i>	<i>\$20,094.00</i>	<i>\$13,871.37</i>
<i>Conservation Security Program</i>	<i>\$7,269,163.00</i>	<i>\$3,149,808.00</i>	<i>\$300,314.00</i>
<i>Wetland Reserve Program</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$128,063.79</i>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,246,073.00</b>	<b>\$3,702,655.75</b>	<b>\$957,692.46</b>

Conservation



Easements

# Marion Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2007



119 Palmetto Pointe Dr., Suite A  
Marion, SC 29571



## Rewards of Conservation!

Benefits of maintaining conservation and implementing practices will help farms and ranches obtain more environmentally sustainable soil, and will increase the natural resources. Providing water for urban and rural uses, livestock products, flood protection and wildlife habitat are beneficial.

Planting trees for example, reduces soil erosion, reduces sedimentation in streams and rivers, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, enhances forest and wetland resources, and the purification of air are just a few benefits of conservation.



Many different programs and practices are available through the District office. If you are interested in applying or would just like some information on Soil & Water Conservation, please feel free to give us a call: 423-1742, ext. 101 & 102.

**May we continue to reap the rewards of Conservation!**

**The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation. and marital or familv status.**



## Commissioners:



Commissioners pictured left to right standing: Ernie O. Hinson, Jr.-Commissioner, J. Aubrey White – Sec./Treasurer. Sitting left to right: John A. Wiggins – Vice Chairman, James F. Huggins – Chairman, and Fletcher M. Johnson, Sr. – Commissioner. Commissioners not pictured: C.P. Mincey – Commissioner Emeritus, C. Earl Roark –Associate Commissioner and David B. Owens – Associate Commissioner

We, the Marion Conservation District Commissioners, would like to express our appreciation to Marion County, all agricultural and related agencies, plus participating land users for making this another successful year for improving and conserving our natural resources. Also, special thanks to our school administration, teachers, and affiliate members for promoting conservation. Our thanks to the Star & Enterprise for their generous publicity on our special projects and meetings.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are legal Subdivisions of State Government responsible for the conservation work within its boundaries. The districts are governed by a local board of five commissioners serving four year terms. Three commissioners are elected in the general election, and two are appointed by the SC Natural Resources Board. These dedicated men and women serve the natural resource interests of this state without pay. The main objective of the board of commissioners is to promote conservation of our natural and human resources. To accomplish this task, we enlist the technical assistance of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the SC Department of Natural Resources –Division of Land, Water and Conservation. Other federal, state and local units of government are sometimes called upon by the District for assistance in special resource management concerns. The Board of commissioners meets at 6:00 pm. on the third Tuesday of each month at, 119 Palmetto Pointe Drive, Marion, SC. All meetings, programs and services open to the public.

## Wildlife Program Supper



The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored a Wildlife Program Supper on December 5th, 2006, at 6:30p.m. The event was held at the Scotch Community Center in Mullins, across the road from Woodlawn Baptist Church.

The meeting/supper event provided detailed information about wildlife conservation practices. Johnny Wiggins, the Conservation District's Vice-Chairman presented a Power Pointe Presentation of the Conservation District's purpose, conservation on the ground, information available from the office and conservation programs/practices available.

SC Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Biologist, Billy Dukes presented a Power Pointe Presentation on Quail Habitat Management, quail plant succession, raising the quail population, annual population cycle, quail cover, broad rearing habitat, quail chick feeding time, seasonal food, partridge weed, precision farming, field borders (CP-3), strip disking, quail management, quail management in forest (canopy cover), prescribed burning, prescribed cover, food plots, hay and quail nesting and quail population figures for South Carolina.

SCDNR Biologist, Meg McElveen, gave a power point presentation on the Farm Bill. Meg covered the dollars that are given each year, benefits of the farm Bill programs, different programs available through Natural Resources Conservation Service, and also covered wildlife and quail habitat practices and procedures.

Soil & Water District Chairman, Jim Huggins, spoke about the importance of conservation and applied practices in our everyday lives and for the future.

## Conservation Farmer of the Year



**Pictured left: Charles Ray Drew working on his combine.**

**Pictured right: Robert Drew who accepted the award on behalf of Drew Farms.**

Each year the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District holds an Annual Banquet for the conservation efforts and program accomplishments put forth in the County. Following a meal at O'Hara's Restaurant in Mullins the District presented a Power Pointe Presentation on the programs and accomplishments for the fiscal year. NRCS also presented a Power Pointe Presentation on their accomplishments as well as DNR giving a report.

An award is presented to the farmer which has applied the most conservation related practices on his/her land for the year. This year the Conservation Farmer of the Year award was presented to Drew Farms. Drew Farms is owned and operated by Charles Ray Drew of Mullins, and his two sons, David and Robert Drew.

Drew Farms plants and harvested over 2000 acres using no-till rotation of corn, cotton, peanuts, and small grains such as rye, soybeans, and oats. They also use 300 acres of grazing to provide forage for over 100 cattle. The Drew's use a rotational grazing system to improve forage quality and quantities to maximize cattle growth and pasture development. They have installed heavy use areas on the farm to reduce soil lost to high traffic areas for the farm. They have also installed the first livestock shade structures in the county which are used during the summer for small calves. They also manage a swine facility and reuse the waste from the system to fertilize their pastures. This year they have installed a K-line irrigation system to improve the use of the nutrients and reduce the expense of large irrigation pipeline. The Drews also use bio-diesel, a clean burning alternative fuel, produced from domestic renewable resources. Drew Farm's certainly have worked hard and continue to work hard on the farms in their every day lives to conserve our natural resources through any practice available. We appreciate the Drew's for continuing to do all they can for our future generations in Marion County.



## District Sponsored Activities

### Arbor Day

The district reaches out to the local school districts throughout Marion County, giving trees to all K-5 youth and some K-4. With hope that each tree will be planted, 1000 trees are purchased each year and distributed.

**Conservation Booklets** **Conservation booklets** are given to 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades to expand our children's knowledge of conservation and to share the importance of conserving our Natural Resources.

**Soil Stewardship** Each year the district provides inserts to local churches and placemats to local restaurants for the observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

### **The Governor's Institute for Natural Resource Conservation**

The District offers high school students the opportunity to earn one hour of college credit in Environmental Science through Lander University while learning about their natural resources. This is usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> week in June and is paid for by the District office. A \$50 deposit is required and will be returned if the student attends the workshop.

### **Conservation Essay Competition**

Each year the District offers an Essay Contest to all students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Various topics are given to choose from and range from 300 -500 words for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades and 500 to 750 for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. All 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from each school will receive a cash award from the District Office.

### **Poster Contest**

This is an opportunity for our youth to get involved with conservation. All K-5-5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been given the opportunity to participate in our Poster contest this year. If the District has a substantial amount of participation, this will be continued to be offered on an annual basis.

### **Natural Resource Education Workshops for teachers**

Our SCDNR Program Coordinator, Mark Page sets up this workshop for the Teacher's in the Public and Private School Sectors. A Teacher's Workshop is provided to assist local Teacher's with re-certification.

**Coastal Carolina Adventure** Carolina Coastal Adventure provides an opportunity each year for high school students in grades 9 and 10 to spend a fun weekend on the coast, while learning about South Carolina's natural resources. This weekend event is for students who want to learn more about our state's aquatic natural resources.

## Services Provided

### MAPS AVAILABLE



- ❖ Maps are provided by the office for a small fee. Color photos are \$3 each
- ❖ Soil Cd's are also available for a fee of \$15 each.

### NO-TILL RENTAL EQUIPMENT



The District has two no-till drills and a Brillion Seeder for rent for \$9 per acre to local farmers. A pasture aerator is available for rent for \$15 per half a day and \$30 per whole day. A Drip-Trickle machine is available to local vegetable farmers for \$25 per acre. A \$100 deposit is required before all rental use. Anyone interested in renting the No-till Grain Drill, Brillion Seeder, Aerator or Drip-Trickle equipment should contact the office at 423-1742. ext. 101.

## Benefits of No-till Practices

Leaving the farmland undisturbed will decrease soil erosion, while reducing runoff, tractor fuel use and greenhouse gas emission. With conservation tillage, farmers leave the stubble or plant residue on the soil's surface, rather than plowing or disking it into the soil. The new crop is planted directly into this stubble, and modified herbicide tolerant plants make it possible and practical for growers to control weeds in the crop by applying an herbicide rather than plowing. Another plus for leaving the crop residue on the ground, there are opportunities for having new forage for wildlife.

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION



**Jeannie Poston, teacher at Mullins Kindergarten with her students.**

Our Arbor Day Celebration consists of making personal contacts with our youth in our public and private school sectors. Each year the conservation District distributes 500 – 800 trees to K-5 and some K-4 students throughout the county. Each student receives a tree, with the hope that these seedlings will be planted for future generations.

## Fair Display



In 2006 the District was awarded for the Conservation Display Booth. The booth was put together by Lisa Foxworth, SWCD, with assistance from Rebecca Harper and Bradley Poston with NRCS. The Booth is conservational with urban and rural conservation brochures and pamphlets. The booth helps promote conservation and the District through public awareness. Flower decorations, compliments of Garden-Earth, Hwy 501, Marion.

## Pond Clinic



The Marion Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored a Pond Clinic at the Reedy Creek Baptist Church, Hwy. 501 in Marion. The SC Department of Natural Resources Fishery Biologist was the guest speaker at the event. Topics of discussion were fertilization, weed control and stocking rates. Through distribution of information packets and questions answered by our DNR specialist, all benefited tremendously from this clinic.



# AFFILIATE MEMBERS

\$500

James Carson Benton, Jr.

\$100

\$50

Fred's Restaurant  
Smith-Rogers Oil Co.  
Howard B. Smith Agency  
Thomas Supply  
Anderson Brother's Bar  
Gore's Tire Service  
Blanton Supplies

Nichols Farm Supply  
Marion County Farm Bureau  
Marion Animal Hospital  
Jim Huggins (Chairman)  
Bessie G. Legette  
Bridger's Drug Store  
Battle LP Gas

\$25

C.E. Roark  
James G. Wiggins  
Mrs. Ella Moore  
Mrs. Connie Gibson  
Jordan Scrap Metal  
Swamp Fox Timber  
City Auto Parts

## Join us as an Affiliate Member:

If you would like to help us conserve our Natural Resources by becoming an affiliate member, please call us at: 423-1742, ext. 101. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

### Amount you wish to contribute:

\$25.00 \_\_\_\_ Bronze Member

\$50.00 \_\_\_\_ Silver Member

\$100.00 \_\_\_\_ Gold Member

\$500.00 \_\_\_\_ Life Time Member

## FY 2006 Accomplishments

Summary Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (100) (no)	2	2
Conservation Completion Incentive First Year (CCIA) (no)	1	
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	46	34
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	86	
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	10	
Dike (356) (ft)	3,006	
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)	21	9
Fence (382) (ft)	87,805	54,297
Field Border (386) (ft)	3,685	
Filter Strip (393) (ac)	25	25
Firebreak (394) (ft)	18,685	13,660
Forest Stand Improvement (666) (	30	14
Grass Buffer Strip (741) (ac)	25	25
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	5	0
Hedgerow Planting (422) (ft)	500	
Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation (441) (ac)	4	4
Irrigation Water Management (449)	4	4
Land Clearing (460) (ac)	0	3
Livestock Use Area Protection (757)	2	
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	3,310	248
Pasture and Hay Planting (512) (ac)	1,084	482
Pest Management (595) (ac)	80	
Pipeline (516) (ft)	14,047	4,385
Pond (378) (no)	3	
Prescribed Burning (338) (ac)	1,024	7
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	200	111
Shallow Water Development and Management (646) (ac)	51	
Structure for Water Control (587)	6	
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)	162	113
Underground Outlet (620) (ft)	800	
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	152	39
Use Exclusion (472) (ac)	340	34
Waste Utilization (633) (ac)	248	248
Water Well (642) (no)	10	
Watering Facility (614) (no)	45	7
Wetland Enhancement (659) (ac)	51	
Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)	156	101
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)	148	

## New employee joins the team!



The Marion Conservation District/NRCS office has a new employee, "Meg" Margaret McElveen, SCDNR, Wildlife Biologist has joined our team. Her position is a joint effort between SCDNR and NRCS. Meg grew up in Columbia, SC. She received her Bachelor's in Biology from Virginia Tech and her graduate degree in Conservation Ecology from the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Meg's graduate research focused on elephant growth and age determination. Meg started with the office in June 06.

## Office Staff:



(Top: pictured left to right)

**Rebecca Harper, -District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS**

**Bradley Poston, -Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS**

**Mark Page, Program Coordinator, SCDNR**

(Bottom: pictured left to right)

**Lisa M. Foxworth - District Clerk**

**Margaret "Meg" McElveen – Wildlife Biologist, SCDNR**

**Alex Johnson – Resource Conservationist, NRCS**